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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

**OFFICIAL**

In re Application of: HERMIDA

Serial No: 10/082743  
Confirmation No.: 4696  
Filed: February 22, 2002  
Examiner: G. Krishnan  
Group Art Unit: 1623

For: REGENERATION OF ARTICULAR CARTILAGE DAMAGED BY GRADE I AND II OSTEOARTHRITIS BY MEANS OF THE INTRAARTICULAR APPLICATION OF A MIXTURE OF SODIUM HYALURONATE AND CHONDROITIN SULFATE IN A GEL VEHICLE

**RESPONSE**

MAIL STOP - RESPONSE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following remarks are responsive to the November 4, 2003, Office Action on the above-referenced application. A one month extension of the period for responding to the outstanding Office Action has been requested in the accompanying PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a) AND TRANSMITTAL OF FEE UNDER 37 CFR 1.17(a)(1). In the event that Petition should become detached from this Response or otherwise become lost or misplaced, the Commissioner is requested to charge the fee for a one month extension to Deposit Account No. 501051.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-5 are pending in the present application. By Office Action dated November 4, 2003, the Examiner has rejected all claims under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Lindblad (U.S. Patent No. 4,801,619) in combination with Nocelli (EPO 704 216 A1). Applicant respectfully traverses.

The Examiner asserts that there would be motivation to combine the cited references, both of which relate to the treatment of mammalian joints exhibiting cartilage degeneration, "for the